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Edette "Edie" Ann Churchill, 54, of Lancaster, PA, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2015

Emily Churchill

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There is no peaceful way to die.
We leave this earth gasping for
breath as our souls are
caught in a chokehold by the
dying body.

She was surrounded with the loving sentiments and kisses of her children and family

I leaned down to kiss her
writhing body, trapped in the
confines of cold, unfeeling sheets.
I ran out and down the stark
hallway, eyes glued to me all the
way. In a corner I sat and cried,
silently and alone.

She was adored by her three children, Sarah (25), Emily (18), and Matthew (13)

Dad held up the phone to her ear.
“Say goodbye, to your mom, Sarah.”
Her voice meek and miles away,
she devolved into explosive tears,
her fists clenching empty air.
This was not how she wanted it.

*Edie was raised in Nazareth, PA, by her loving parents, Harry and Phyllis (Kratzer)
Longenbach*

“Can you wait for your father, Edie? He’s almost here.”
Her head shook violently.
“Please, for him?”
Calling on every muscle, she
tugged at the tubes,
pumping air through
shattered lungs. Her eyes shouted:
“Out. Out. I want them out.”

Naturally gifted at everything she pursued, she enjoyed decorating, gardening, ice skating, playing guitar, painting, and giving gifts and kindness to those in need

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A skeleton of what used to be
a strong body, mind, and heart,
I cried for her, for moments lost, and for
grandchildren never to know
the depths of her love.

She was loved and admired by her husband, Chris

The tubes removed, she spent her last few
breaths, shrouded in a web of arms.
Past lies and pain melted away until
only the love for their children remained.
And a new promise was made.